

Prior to becoming Catawba County Register of Deeds in December 2004, Donna Hicks Spencer began developing a strong work ethic at an early age. She was born and raised in the mountains of our 10th District in Avery County. By sixteen she was a school bus driver and before graduating from Avery County High School she also worked in telecommunications. Donna worked as a waitress, at CPCC in Continuing Education, and at two law firms to help put herself through Mayland Technical Community College, where she received a Clerical Science Degree and through Central Piedmont Community College, where she received an AAS Degree in Paralegal Technology. In 1986 she became a Notary and began working as a legal secretary for a law firm in Avery County. In October of 1989 after finishing up her Paralegal degree, she moved to Catawba County and went to work as an in house real estate paralegal for Sigmon, Clark, Mackie and Hutton Law firm in Hickory. Then in 1992 she took on the challenge of starting one of the first Real Estate Freelance Paralegal businesses where she had much success. She covered over twenty counties with Catawba being her home base. By running a business employing up to 5 employees at one time, this allowed her to gain the experience and knowledge needed to be a successful Register of Deeds. In 2004 when taking office, there wasn't even as much as a fax machine, only three computers for a staff of 7 and two public computers. She has been working hard to move the office into the 21st century since taking office; from having a user friendly website that also allows you to access not only real estate documents, but also the indexing of such transactions. These same items are accessible on 9 in house terminals along with the county's vital records on one of them. All this allows for a customer friendly office.

To continue her education, in 2005 Donna accomplished the recognition from the North Carolina Association of Register of Deeds as a Certified Register of Deeds and being one of the first to be certified as an Advanced Certified Register of Deeds in 2007. She has been a long time member of the North Carolina Paralegal Association and in 2006 was one of the first paralegals that became certified through the North Carolina State Bar Board of Paralegals.

Within the community, Donna applied her knowledge and education toward becoming a Notary Public Instructor for CVCC in 2006 which was followed up with becoming the first Register of Deeds to become an eNotary Instructor in 2007. She formerly served as Parliamentarian and 2nd Vice-President for the Catawba County Republican Women's Club (CCRWC), has served on the Lincoln Day Dinner Committee and as assistant treasurer for the Catawba County Republican Party. She is a former member of the Catawba Valley Mothers of Multiples and serves on the committee for what is one of the largest yard sales in the Catawba Valley and the committee for the 2005 State Convention.

Between 1988 and 1989 while traveling back and forth to Charlotte for college, Donna knew Catawba County was the place she wanted to plant her roots and in 1993 she did just that by marrying Donald Spencer, a lifelong resident. In 1989 Donna was told she would never be able to bear children, but by drawing on her faith, strong determination, and the love of her life, she would overcome this. The two of them found a surrogate through an arduous process and in July of 1999 the couple was truly blessed by God with healthy triplet boys; Aiden, Dawson, and Gavin. They are now 10 years old and fifth graders at Clyde Campbell Elementary School in the St. Stephens area of the county.

Donna attended Open Door Baptist Church as a child, a teenager, and the early part of her adulthood which instilled in her a deep spiritual faith and strong conviction. She and her family attend Highland United Methodist Church in Hickory.

"I would like to say to those of you who voted for me in the prior Elections, THANK YOU for your trust! For those of you who didn't, I hope you will at least give me the opportunity to win your trust by the next Election. My office doors are always open or feel free to call with any suggestions, questions or comments you may have."

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Hicks Spencer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page.